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Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02 EB-07 TRSE-00

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EUR-12 /062 W
---------- 045774
R 170755Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2613

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KE
SUBJECT: CHANGES IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 051768 (DTG 031747Z MAR 76), (B) USCINCEUR 081812Z MAR 76

1. KENYA IS A RELATIVE NEWCOMER TO RANKS OF COUNTRIES SENDING MILITARY TRAINEES TO U.S. FACILITIES, BUT FIRST YEAR OF EXPERIENCE IN OPINION OF COUNTRY TEAM HAS DEMONSTRATED DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUING AND NURTURING MILITARY TRAINING RELATIONSHIPWM EMBASSY ENDORSES CINCEUR'S CONCLUSIONS (REF B) CONCERNING IMPACT OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN PRICING OF COURSES. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY DEPARTMENT IS KEYED TO SUBPARAS OF PARA 5, REF A:

2. (A) REVISED COSTS HAVE BEEN QUOTED TO KENYA FOR PLANNING OF FUTURE TRAINING, AND GOK'S PAST EXPERIENCE WITH U.S. TRAINING IS SO BRIEF THAT KENYANS REGARD NEW COSTS AS THE NORM. THUS BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE UN-

LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY MERE FACT OF INCREASED PRICES.
(B) KENYA IS INTERESTED IN TWO BASIC TYPES OF TRAINING FROM U.S. FIRST TYPE IS ADVANCED OFFICER TRAINING, SUCH AS COMMAND AND STAFF COURSES, WHICH CANNOT BE ECONOMICALLY PROVIDED BY A MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT
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OF KENYA'S SIZE (UNDER 10,000 MEN). SECOND TYPE IS

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TRAINING OF PERSONNEL ON NEW EQUIPMENT,,SOME OF WHICH
IS EXPECTED TO BE OF U.S. ORIGIN. AT PRESENT, KENYA
IS RECEIVING MODEST GRANT FUNDING
FOR ADVANCED OFFICER
STAFF TRAINING, AND IS ANTICIPATING GRANT FUNDING FOR
TRAINING OF PILOTS TO FLY U.S. FIGHTERS LIKELY TO BE
BOUGHT WITH FMS CREDITS. GRANT FUNDING FOR LATTER
TYPE OF TRAINING IS IMPORTANT INDUCEMENT TO BUY U.S.
EQUIPMENT, ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE LOSS OF GRANT
TRAINING WOULD PORBABLY NOT TIP THE BALANCE AGAINST
GOK DECISION TO BUY. IF THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE, GOK
WOULD PAY FOR EQUIPMENT-RELATED TRAINING, BUT THIS
WOULD GO CONTRARY TO THEIR EARLIER EXPECTATIONS AND
COULD WELL BECOME AN IRRITANT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.
(C) TRAINING OF KENYAN OFFICERS IN U.S. STAFF COURSES
HAS ENHANCED OUR ACCESS TO KENYA'S WHOLE
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, OVERCOMING MORE THAN A DECADE
OF STANDOFFISHNESS BASED ON SUSPICION THAT U.S. MIGHT
IN SAME WAY SUBVERT KENYAN MILITARY FORCES. IT HAS
GIVEN KENYA ADDED INCENTIVE TO WELCOME U.S. NAVY
VISITS AND HAS PROBABLY DAMPENED TENDENCIES TOWARD
KNEE-JERK REACTION TO U.S. PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN.
IT HAS ALLOWED KENYA TO DIVERSIFY OPPORTUNITIES AVAIL-
ABLE TO ITS OFFICERS TO GAIN PROFESSIONAL SKILL AND
ESTEEM, WHICH WE REGARD AS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT FOR
CONTINED VIABILITY OF CIVILIAN CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERN-
MENT. SO FAR, ALL TRAINING OF THIS TYPE HAS BEEN ON
A GRANT BASIS, AND WE BELIEVE BENEFIT TO U.S. INTERESTS
MAKES THIS MONEY WELL SPENT. EQUIPMENT-RELATED TRAIN-
ING IS LESS DIRECTLY RELATED TO U.S. INTERESTS, BUT IN
THE LONG RUN CONTRIBUTES TO KENYA'S ABILITY TO PLAY
STABILIZING ROLE IN ENTIRE REGION. GRANT FUNDING FOR
PILOT TRAINING IS REGARDED BY GOK AS IMPORTANT COM-
PONENT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FROM U.S., WHICH
IN ITS ENTIRETY IS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN
U.S.-KENYA RELATIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE. IF COSTS
DOUBLE, WE CAN PROBABLY PRESERVE ENOUGH OF THE STAFF
COURSE TRAINING AT PRESENT FUNDING LEVEL TO SUSTAIN
ACCRUED GOOD WILL. PILOT TRAINING WOULD HAVE TO BE
STRETCHED OUT IF COSTS DOUBLE, BUT COULD BE MANAGED
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IF $900,000 LEVEL PROJECTED (NOT YET FUNDED) FOR FY 76
IS MAINTAINED FOR NEXT 2 OR 3 YEARS.
(D) IF FORCED TO CUT BACK ON TRAINING IN U.S.
BECAUSE OF INCREASED COSTS, GOK WOULD GIVE PRIORITY
TO CONTINUATION OF AIR FORCE TRAINING ESSENTIAL FOR
NEW U.S. PLANES. STAFF COURSE TRAINING WOULD BE
ABANDONED OR CHEAPER FACILITIES SOUGHT IN OTHER
COUNTRIES.

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(E) TRADITIONALLY, KENYA HAS RELIED MAINLY ON UK FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY TRAINING. UK HAS PROVIDED TRAINING ON GRANT BASIS UP TO SPECIFIED ANNUAL CEILING, ABOVE WHICH GOK HAS PAID FROM ITS OWN FUNDS. OTHER SOURCES OF TRAINING HAVE BEEN CANADA, INDIA, AND PAKISTAN. GOK HAS WELCOMED TRAINING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. MILITARY AND KENYAN OFFICIALS HAVE OFTEN COMMENTED ON ADVANTAGES OF U.S. SYSTEMS, DOCTRINES OR EQUIPMENT FOR VARIOUS KENYAN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT ARMY STAFF COURSE WHICH MIGHT COST $20,000 AT NEW U.S. PRICES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM INDIA FOR $1,000. OBVIOUSLY, KENYA CANNOT HOPE TO USE U.S. FACILITIES WHEN SUCH COST DIFFERENTIALS EXIST UNLESS SPACES ARE PROVIDED ON GRANT BASIS OR THE TRAINING IS UNIQUELY AVAILABLE IN U.S. KENYA IS UNLIKELY TO TURN TO COM-MUNIST COUNTRIES FOR TRAINING IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

(F) AS FOREGOING DISCUSSION IMPLIES, ELIMINATION OF GRANT TRAINING FOR KENYA WOULD RESULT IN FEW IF ANY KENYANS RECEIVING STAFF COURSE TRAINING IN U.S., AND WOULD CONSTITUTE A NEGATIVE FACTOR IN OTHERWISE POSITIVE IMPACT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS OF PROPOSED U.S. FMS SALE OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT.

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